



Degree Profile

Master in Social Anthropology

Organizational unit	Department of Social Sciences, Anthropology
Degree	MA Social Anthropology
Scope, Duration, Start	65 ECTS Major, 35 ECTS Minor; 4 semesters (if full time), fall and spring semester
Language of instruction	English

Program Goals

Building on the fundamentals of social anthropology acquired in the bachelor's program, students in the master's program are guided in expanding their theoretical knowledge, delving deeper into a specific subfield, and acquiring training in a specific research area. Students learn ethnographic methods and acquire the ability to design and carry out an individual research project, evaluate the findings, interpret them in relation to a theoretical framework, and present them in an academic text.

Program Characteristics

Orientation	Scientific-oriented education
Majors	–
Program structure	The students select a major (65 ECTS), a minor (35 ECTS) and free elective (20 ECTS). The curriculum consists of the modules: Theory and Themes of Social Anthropology (13 ECTS); Ethnographic Research (17 ECTS); master's examination (5 ECTS); master's thesis (30 ECTS, if Social Anthropology as major).
Distinctive Features	While the regional focus of social anthropology at the University of Basel is on Africa and Eastern Europe, our team also conducts research and teaches on Oceania, Asia, Latin America, and the Afro-Atlantic region, among other areas. Thematic research and teaching focuses on general social anthropology; global economic systems; migration, mobility and belonging; gender, sexuality and kinship; medicine, health and the body, and the politics of knowledge production. In terms of methodology, the subject primarily advocates qualitative and interpretative approaches. In particular, it promotes the development of methods that can capture current changes under globalization.

Career Opportunities

Employment	Development cooperation; intercultural mediation; migration, refugee services and social work; media, public relations and journalism; museums, archives and independent curating; tourism; public health sector and sustainability; international enterprises; diplomacy and politics.
Further Studies	Doctorate

Teaching

Approaches	Field research, interactive learning, reflective learning, literature research, research-oriented learning
Assessments	Oral and written examinations, active participation in courses, term papers, master's thesis

Competences

Generic Attitude / Communication Approach / Management	Students acquire the skills to ... – examine conceptual alternatives and research literature critically and substantially. – deal successfully with diversity. – become quickly acquainted with new disciplinary and methodological approaches. – test hypotheses, work and design research questions as well as research drafts from conception to implementation, choosing suitable approaches and methods. – explain and communicate complex and systematic scientific relations and communicate effectively and persuasively in written and oral form. – defend their own insights from criticism while critically reflecting on own positions. – read, understand, revise and write scientific texts.
Subject-related Knowledge / Understanding Application / Judgment Interdisciplinarity	Students acquire the skills to ... – understand what being and becoming human means across different social, cultural and historical contexts. – exercise their imagination and decenter common understandings of social relations, economic livelihoods and political power. – comparatively analyze economic, cultural, and social contexts in different societies and their integration into regional, national, and global networks. – present the relationship between these contexts in a convincing, coherent, and meaningful form. – critically reflect the specific disciplinary perspective of social anthropology and to situate it within the broader spectrum of subjects and disciplines. – know and use ethnographic field research methods. – design and carry out an individual research project, evaluate the findings, interpret them in relation to the theoretical framework, and present them in an academic text.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the master's program in Social Anthropology...

- demonstrate a broad and in-depth knowledge of relevant anthropological theories and literature and can describe as well as apply selected current anthropological research fields and questions adequately to a research question.
- are able to deepen methodologically, conceptually and theoretically selected anthropological questions in fields such as global economic systems, mobility and belonging, gender and sexuality, and health and the body and discuss their significance critically and relevantly with peers and experts.
- demonstrate a coherent anthropological understanding of societies on the basis of independent insights and can refer them to theoretical and practical examples of individual case study.
- can recognize and reflect the fundamental anthropological principles based on a concretely experienced reflection of their own social identity.
- know empirical research methods in detail and are thus able to describe and select them appropriately, to apply them step by step correctly as well as to justify the criteria for their choice.
- can handle specific regional, topical, historical and theoretical anthropological research questions based on accessible sources such as publications, archives, collections or on self-collected data, and can critically analyze and interpret their findings in relation to a theoretical framework.
- are able to develop their own research foci by identifying, formulating and refining research questions through context-based and comparative analyses of social practices, cultural processes and forms of social action in a globalized world.
- are able to argue for the chosen scientific approach and to present their results for discussion clearly and adequately in written and oral form.